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Susan C. Elliott
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: DAVID MCCRAY PEELE)

SERIAL NO.: 09/299,403)

FILED: APRIL 26, 1999)

FOR: TOBACCO PROCESSING)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: JJ-112-R&D)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please add the following claims:

14. The method of Claim 8 whereby the tobacco subjected to heat is Virginia tobacco.

15. The method of Claim 8 whereby the green tobacco subjected to the application of heat is essentially absent of tobacco specific nitrosamine prior to being subjected to the application of heat.

16. The method of Claim 8 whereby the tobacco is subjected to heat such that the tobacco is exposed to a temperature in

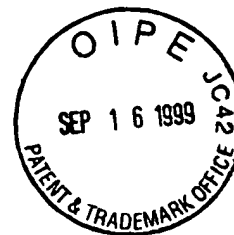
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